

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MIL, EAID, MT

SUBJECT: MALTA: EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON ASSISTANCE; NEUTRAL-
ITY GUARANTEE

REF: VALLETTA 2064; ROME 12684; STATE 171863;
STATE 179390 (NOTAL); STATE 184410

1. DURING JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
PANSA, DEPARTMENT OFFICER RAISED MALTA ISSUES, INCLUDING
EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON ASSISTANCE AND LANGUAGE OF
NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE.

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2. RE ASSISTANCE DIALOGUE, WE EMPHASIZED OUR VIEW THAT THIS
MUST BE EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN SHOW. USG WOULD ENCOURAGE
GERMANS, ITALIANS, AND FRENCH TO GET TOGETHER AND COME
UP WITH TIMELY ASSISTANCE OFFER, BUT WOULD NOT RPT NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO OFFER. OUR ROLE WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO
ENCOURAGING PRIVATE US INVESTMENT IN MALTA AND MINTOFF
HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS BY PRESIDENT HIMSELF.

3. RE LANGUAGE OF NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE, WE REITERATED US OPPOSITION TO FORMULA EXCLUDING NATO AND WARSAW PACT FROM MALTESE FACILITIES, AND OUR REQUIREMENT FOR LANGUAGE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDING US AND SOVIETS. WE TOLD PANSA

THAT ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION, FOR "LEGAL" REASONS, WAS NATO/WARSAW PACT EXCLUSION, AND THAT EMBASSY ROME UNDER INSTRUCTIONS HAD MADE REPRESENTATIONS AT FARNESINA ON SUBJECT. PANSA SAID THIS WAS FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF DIFFERING US-GOI VIEWS ON NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE LANGUAGE, AND HE WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO ROME. PANSA SUGGESTED THAT DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS BE DISCUSSED IN NATO.

4. IN GENERAL COMMENTS ON MALTA SITUATION, PANSA SAID HE WAS AWARE OF USG'S "SKEPTICISM" RE MINTOFF'S ULTIMATUMS, HISTORICAL, AND THREATS TO EXERCISE ARAB (LIBYAN) OPTION. HE INDICATED WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SO SURE THAT MINTOFF WOULD NOT DO SOMETHING RASH WHICH COULD DAMAGE OUR SECURITY INTERESTS. ON MINTOFF'S LIBYAN OPTION, PANSA POINTED OUT THAT QADHAFI GREATER CONCERN NOW THAN HE WAS A FEW YEARS AGO BECAUSE OF GREATLY INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH LIBYAN LEADER. VANCE

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